

**Claims**

1. A method of filtering messages received by a telecommunications device, the method comprising the steps of:-
  - 5 a) inputting a rule set into the telecommunications device;
  - b) reading an incoming message;
  - c) modifying the message if that message breaks a rule of the rule set; and
  - d) displaying the modified message;wherein the rule set comprises a plurality of rules, each of which relates  
10 to a respective predetermined message content.
2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the message is a text message.
3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein step b) includes the step of parsing  
15 the incoming test message.
4. A method as claimed in claim 2 or claim 3, wherein step c) is such as to delete the predetermined text content, or to replace the letters of the predetermined text content with meaningless characters.  
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5. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein step a) is carried out by downloading the rule set from a network operator.
6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, further comprising the step of  
25 modifying the rule set, by the user of a telecommunications device, to accommodate the needs of that user.
7. A telecommunications device comprising a transceiver, a processor and a display, the processor including software containing a rule set, means for reading an  
30 incoming message, means for modifying the message if that message breaks a rule of the rule set whereby a modified message is displayed, wherein the rule set comprises a plurality of rules, each of which relates to a respective predetermined message content.

8. A device as claimed in claim 7, wherein the software is such that a user of the device can modify the rule set.

5 9. A device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising data input means linked to the processor for modifying the rule set.

10. A device as claimed in claim 9, wherein a keypad constitutes the data input means.

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11. A device as claimed in any one of claims 7 to 10, wherein, where the message is a text message, the software is such as to parse the incoming text message.

12. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the software is such as to delete the  
15 predetermined text content, or to replace letters of the predetermined text content with meaningless characters.